making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

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9. (Amended) A method of [communicating] enforcing network quality of service policy information from a policy server acting as a policy decision point [to a plurality of] at one or more routers that are acting as policy enforcement points, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

[creating and storing] receiving active QoS configuration information;

receiving a COPS protocol decision message from the policy decision point that identifies new configuration information as an inactive configuration by a specified flag bit in a message type value in a Context object that forms part of the decision message;

storing the new configuration information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;

determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional in combination with the active QoS configuration information;

making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

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12. (Amended) A router acting as [one of a plurality of] a policy enforcement [points] point for enforcing one or more network quality of service policies received from a policy server acting as a policy decision point for a network that includes the [plurality of] router and one or more other policy enforcement points, the router comprising:

one or more network interfaces;

one or more processors coupled to the one or more network interfaces for receiving network information therefrom and enforcing one or more network quality of service policies thereon;

one or more stored sequences of instructions accessible to the one or more processors and which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

[creating and storing] receiving active QoS configuration information;

receiving a COPS protocol decision message from the policy decision point that identifies new configuration information as an inactive configuration by a specified flag bit in a message type value in a Context object that forms part of the decision message;

storing the new configuration information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;

determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional in combination with the active QoS configuration information;

making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.

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13. (Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for [communicating] enforcing network quality of service policy information [to a plurality of] at one or more policy enforcement points, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

[creating and storing] receiving active QoS configuration information at a policy enforcement point;

receiving new configuration information and storing the new configuration information as an inactive configuration of the policy enforcement point;

determining whether the inactive configuration information is properly functional in combination with the active QoS configuration information;

making the new configuration information active in place of the active QoS configuration information only in response to receiving an activation message.